

individual Indians or tribes. Lands, minerals, water rights, hunting and fishing rights, claims, titles or money are some of the assets held in ITAs. As assets held in trust, ITAs cannot be sold, leased or alienated without the expressed approval of the U.S. Government. Secretarial Order 3175 and Reclamation policy require that Reclamation evaluate and assess impacts of a proposed project on ITAs. The proposed drilling activity will help strengthen Taos Pueblos' water rights and improve their drought relief water supply, thus having a beneficial impact on these particular Indian Trust Assets. The Pueblo supports this project and its construction and presence on trust lands. There would be no adverse effect on other Indian Trust Assets. Construction effects will be temporary and localized to the site of well installations. Potential effects on vegetation, wildlife, and other trust assets will be temporary during drilling.

### 3.10 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The proposed action could positively affect minority and low-income populations. The proposed location would not displace this population, nor would they be required to directly or indirectly finance this project. The project would enrich those populations with non-potable drought relief water. It would also encourage this population to maintain habitation within Taos Pueblo. The No Action alternative would increase the possibility of this population being relocated as hardships (limited drought relief water for other community purposes) increase.

### 3.11 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The proposed site has been previously disturbed by farming. An additional 400 ft of wiring from underground lines would be needed to provide power to the new pump house located in the same field. The pump house would be fenced to prevent vandalism. No increase of fragmentation of the land would occur at the proposed well site. No additional cumulative effects of the proposed action are expected.

There are 94 existing wells within 1500 feet of the proposed well site. If the No Action alternative is implemented, no cumulative effects are expected to occur.

## 4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

### 4.1 AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED

This Environmental Assessment was prepared in consultation and coordination with the following entities:

- Taos Pueblo (Water Resources Management)
- Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office (Archaeologist and Biologist)
- New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
- BIA Southwest Region Office (Hydrologist)



## 4.2 PREPARERS

Jeff Hanson	Reclamation, Archaeologist	PhD Anthropology, meets Secretary of Interior standards, 23 years experience	Survey proposed site location
Mark Hungerford	Reclamation Archaeologist	BS Anthropology, 12 years experience	ARMS search, maps and edit EA
Mick Porter	Biologist	PhD Biology, 20 years experience	Write, review and edit EA
Jennifer Montano	USFS, Hydrologist	BS Biology, Pending MS in Water Resources, 1 year experience	Write, review and edit EA
Marsha Carra	Reclamation, Environmental Protection Specialist	BS Anthropology/ Geography 15 years experience	Write, review and edit EA
Joe Alderete	Civil Engineering Tech	33 yrs experience	Review and edit EA, site survey
Viola Sanchez	Reclamation, Native American Coordinator	BS, MS Civil Engineering, 17 yrs experience	Review and edit EA, site survey

